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Children's Services and Foster Care Overview

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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On Health and Human Services





How Do Children Enter the Child Welfare Services System?

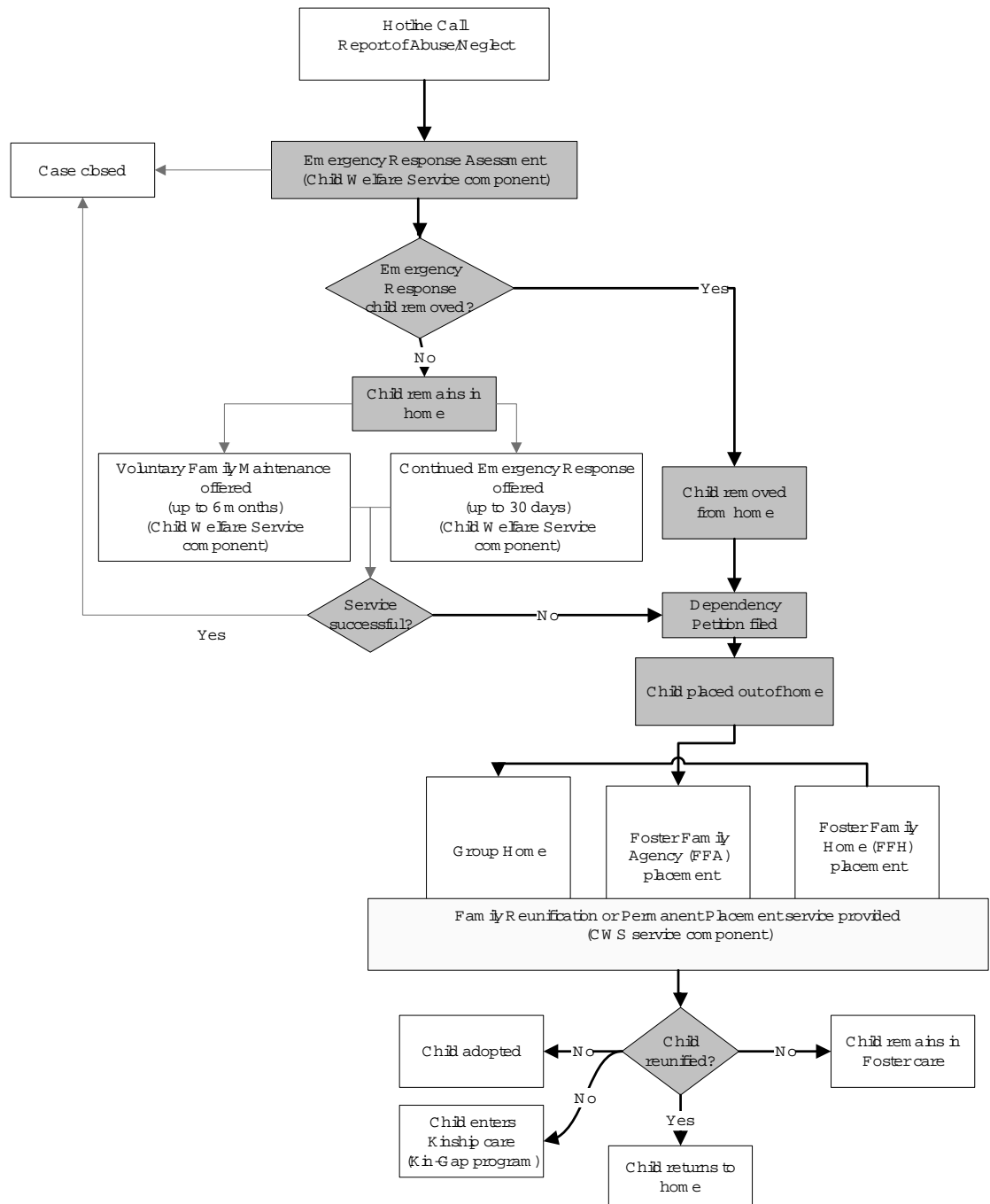


Statewide, over one-half million allegations/hotline calls are received.

- About 22 percent are investigated and substantiated.
- Based on 2002 data, 25 percent to 33 percent of those substantiated eventually result in removal and out-of-home placement.
- In some cases, Emergency Response or Family Maintenance Services are used as alternatives to removal.



What Happens When There Is A Report of Child Abuse/Neglect?





What Are the Foster Care Placement Options?

- If child is removed from home, placement may be in one of the following: Group Home (GH), Foster Family Agency (FFA) placement, or Foster Family Home (FFH).
- **Foster Family Homes** are licensed residences that provide care for no more than six children.
- **Foster Family Agency Placements** are private, nonprofit corporations that provide treatment and certify placements for children with higher level treatment needs and are designed to be an alternative to Group Homes.
- **Group Home Placements** provide 24 hour supervision in a structured environment. Facilities range from small (up to six foster children) to large homes that house many children. This is the most intensive and costly form of care designed to support children with the most significant treatment needs.
- **Kinship Care (Kin-Gap) as a Placement Alternative.** Kin-Gap is a voluntary program for relatives caring for foster children who will not be reunified with their parents. This is considered a permanency option as the child leaves the Child Welfare System. The relatives receive a monthly grant equal to that of an FFH provider.



What Are the Costs and Caseloads For Foster Care?

(2005-06)

Out of Home Placement Type	Average Monthly Caseload	Monthly Cost Per Case
Group Home care	12,207	\$5,106
Foster Family Agency (FFA)	19,736	1,732
Foster Family Home (FFH)	42,547	726
Kinship care (Kin-Gap)	16,089	507
Total	90,579	

- Group Home placement represents the most intensive service level and highest cost placement option. This type of placement represents 13 percent of cases.
- Foster Family Home placements are the most common, representing 47 percent of total out-of-home placements.
- Entry into Kin-Gap program is considered a permanent placement option; the child is no longer within dependency court jurisdiction.



What Are the Costs and Caseloads for Child Welfare Services Components?

(2005-06)

	Cases		Total Proposed Funding (In Thousands)
	Number	Percent	
Emergency Response Assessment	17,461	10%	\$9,931
Emergency Response	44,534	27	513,011
Family Maintenance	24,398	15	126,875
Family Reunification	22,690	14	152,954
Permanent Placement	58,305	35	196,519
Totals	167,388	100%	\$999,290
Detail may not total due to rounding.			

- While in a Foster Care placement, a child will also be provided Child Welfare Services. This service component is usually either Family Reunification services or Permanent Placement services.
- Family Reunification provides intervention and services to enable the child in foster care to return to the home. The reunification plan must be completed before the child may be returned to the home.
- Family Maintenance provides services to families while keeping the child in the home.
- Services provided under both Family Maintenance and Family Reunification include:
 - Counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting education, and domestic violence intervention.



Overall Funding for Children's Services

(2005-06, *In Thousands*)

	Total	Federal	State	County
CWS	\$999,290	\$458,793	\$357,736	\$134,201
Foster Care	1,629,452	477,744	460,683	691,025
Kin-Gap	97,889	58,961	19,464	19,464
Totals	\$2,726,631	\$995,498	\$837,883	\$844,690